



967 US
10,082,991

PATENT
Conf. No. 7045

REMARKS

The Examiner recites certain terms of Claims 1, 3 and 5 and indicates that clarification or correction is required.

However, there is no explanation as to why these terms of Claims 1, 3 and 5 are deficient. Because Applicants believe that the terms used in Claims 1, 3 and 5 are adequate, and the Examiner has not provided any specific grounds for rejection, Applicants are not amending Claims 1, 3 and 5 at this time.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,879,844). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites "forming an IC layer data file including data describing a repeating element, data describing a skeleton into which copies of the repeating element are to be placed, and instructions as to where repeating elements are to be placed". (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner indicates that Yamamoto et al. teaches "forming an IC layer data file including data describing a repeating element (col. 7, lines 61-67 where the element of area is repeated)".

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, this portion of Yamamoto et al. fails to teach "a repeating element" as recited by Claim 1. In contrast, the cited portion of Yamamoto et al. recites:

In FIG. 13, a mask pattern to be corrected is shown divided into areas A1 to A4. More particularly, this figure illustrates how many times the correction calculation is performed repeatedly on each area. ... S1 to S4 indicate areas in which correction calculations are performed one time to four times. As shown in FIG. 13, since the correction calculations are performed on the entire OPE calculation area for each to-be-corrected area, uncorrected patterns in the buffer areas are subjected to correction calculation and pattern data processing two (S2) to four times (S4), resulting in a waste of a large amount of calculation time. (Emphasis added.) (Yamamoto et al., Col. 7, line 61 to Col. 8, line 7.)

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2003

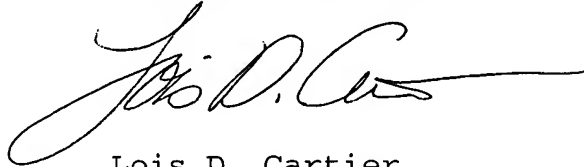
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Applicants are not amending dependent Claims 4, 7 and 8 at this time.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present Application. Claims 4, 7 and 8 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 9-11 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to call the undersigned at 720-652-3733.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois D. Cartier
Reg. No. 40,941
Agent for Applicants

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on October 16, 2003.

Pat Slaback
Name

Pat Slaback
Signature